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## MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENTMONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner

Chadwick H. Smith, Chairman

Paul R. McClure, Commissioner

Mitchell Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

FL-179.

JANUARY, 1958

Employment Level Lags  
3,800 Behind Last Year

Employment in Montana non-farm industries in December, 1957, was 161,400, or 3,800 fewer than the 165,200 recorded in December, 1956, according to estimates released by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. December was the fifth successive month to show an employment decline from the same month of the preceding year, after thirty months preceding had each registered a consistent increase.

## Metal, Lumber, Markets Responsible

December's figures, like those of the July to November period, reflect the impact of manpower reductions in Montana's metal mining and processing industries, along with a less acute shrinkage in numbers employed in lumber and logging. Both of these branches of industry have adjusted downward, employment-wise, in response to market demands and prices which have fallen drastically since early in 1957.

## 3,900 Decline in Metals Alone

Metal mining shows 5,800 wage earners in December, against 9,000 a year before, for a 3,200 loss. Processing of ores gave employment to 4,300 this December, and to 5,000 a year ago, another 700 decline. Lumber and logging, at 6,900 is only 200 off its previous December figure, but is 1,600 below its employment of last July and August.

## Trade and Transportation Affected

Effects of decreased employment in basic industries like mining and lumbering are reflected in circles of trade and transportation, where employment declines of 1,100 and from a year ago, both traceable to economic effects of curtailed employment and consequent reduced buying power. The normal addition of extras in stores and shops was on a much reduced scale in most of the state's population centers.

## Four Other Industries Gain

Partially offsetting these employment decreases were gains of 200 in contract construction, 200 in finance and insurance, 800 in service industries, repair shops and hand trades, and 1,000 in state and local government. Expansion of required educational facilities and programs was responsible for much of the government gain.

## Strong Seasonal Trend Noted

Seasonally the December wage-earner count shows a slightly larger drop, November to December, than during like periods in recent years. Construction was most notably affected, declining 1,800 from 12,200 employees to 10,400. Transportation fell 600 below November figures, while manufacturing was down 1,400, including a 500 drop in lumber employment and 800 in food processing plants. Service industries and government were each down 200 from November, while trade was up 200.

MORE THAN 16,000 WORKERS UNEMPLOYED  
IN MONTANA AT BEGINNING OF YEAR

Montana faces the grim reality of more than 16,000 workers unemployed and seeking jobs at the start of the new year. A year ago there were 10,000 such jobseekers. Nearest approach to the present surplus of unemployed workers since war two was at the start of 1950, when the 10,000 mark was also recorded. Figures quoted are the end-of-month count of work applicants active in files of employment offices in the state at the close of December.

## More Idle, More at Work, on Average

Montana wage-earners, exclusive of farm employment, during 1957 averaged 167,300 persons, an increase of 600 over the 166,700 average for 1956. Average of unemployment during the year, as evidenced by employment service registration, was 10,900, exceeding by 3,700 the 7,200 average for 1956. Corresponding figures for 1950 were 147,000 wage earners and 8,600 average jobseeker count, indicating that the recent year had 20,300 more persons employed, and also had 2,300 more unemployed, on the average, than the most unfavorable previous year since war days.

## Work-Applicant Count in Review

	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
January	14,792	12,676	12,887	12,270	10,616	10,370	11,685
March	14,930	12,663	11,979	11,075	9,323	9,392	10,844
May	9,032	5,105	5,565	6,191	4,324	3,276	4,312
July	6,419	3,807	4,628	4,283	3,249	2,191	3,260
September	6,328	2,889	2,781	3,782	2,288	1,388	2,304
November	12,564	6,453	6,968	5,617	5,048	4,135	4,341
December	16,432	10,325	9,351	8,613	7,932	7,517	6,694

\*Estimate

## Workers Increase Faster Than Jobs

Statistical records of Montana employment disclose an upward trend in number of jobs through the past decade, punctuated by a seasonal up and down movement occasioned by climatic conditions. At the same time it is apparent that the number of wage earners has been increasing during that same time at a pace more rapid than industry has been prepared to absorb them. Economic aspects of such a preponderance of worker over jobs support the conclusion that it will lead to migration of unemployed workers to other fields, since in most cases their satisfactory existence depends upon employment. If Montana jobs are not available, the workers in due time will be elsewhere than Montana.

## Mining, Lumbering, Contribute

Contributing to the present overload of job applicants is the decline in metal mining and in lumbering which characterized much of the year 1957, becoming acute since last July. Nationwide and worldwide economic conditions contribute to the unfavorable markets which have precipitated the employment crisis here, remedy of course must apply on the same wide basis.

## Construction Needs New Projects

Construction has maintained its seasonal employment totals at about the same level as in other recent years. Indications are that the peak of construction volume has been passed, and that new large projects are not coming into the picture to supplant those at or near completion. Work on power dams, power plants, airbase development, government installations, commercial and public buildings, schools, hospitals, highways, streets and other utilities, and too few resi-

dences, has helped employ, seasonally, the available workers of that type.

## Seasonal Layoffs for the Winter

Construction crews have been laid off or reduced during the past month, on a seasonal pattern apparently independent of weather and temperature conditions, but general resumption will occur in March and April. State highway operations in December showed work continuing on 58 miles of road jobs, against 194 miles in November, and on \$5,500,000 worth of bridges and structures, with 260 men on contractor payrolls. Maintenance work used 700 men on the statewide pattern at the same time.

## Encouraging Developments in Sight

Encouraging developments are noted in several areas of the state, though their effect upon employment is not yet felt, and some are only in the preliminary stages of planning. A new pulp mill is being staffed at Missoula, and should bolster employment prospects there soon. A similar enterprise is being discussed for Libby. In far eastern Montana a new safflower industry gives promise of new production, new processing, and new plant investment. Have already has launched an enterprise for converting waste straw into building material.

## May Get Iron Industry

At Dillon there is bright hope for a concentrator to handle newly discovered deposits of high grade iron ore. The only char plant in the state, at Red Lodge, is reported operating again, affording hope of increasing employment. Glasgow is likely to see its airbase expanded by added functions recently announced, affecting not only construction, but also operating and civilian employment on a continuing basis.



## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary, Jan. 1

**ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg**—(429 jobseekers, 132 new; 286 men, 143 women). Addition of about 15 workers at the smelter in December brought the employment there to 3,700, about 300 below a year ago. Re-opening of ferro-manganese operations announced for January, the 85 needed workers will come from curtailment in other sections of the plant. Trade hiring negligible, construction and farm demand inactive.

**BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup**—(1,801 jobseekers, 535 new; 1,365 men, 436 women). Mild weather encouraged construction operators to maintain crews through December, though no new starts were noted. Work continues on court house, hospital addition, state building, but is slow in housing and residential lines. More layoffs occurred in trade and service, and in transportation. Coal mines at seasonal high employment. Farm work caught up, no feeding of consequence begun.

**BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident**—(723 jobseekers, 175 new; 511 men, 212 women). Less construction employment than a year ago. Work on city water and sewer project curtailed, lack of materials on new college buildings hampers progress. Store remodeling job fully staffed, working on interior. Logging contractors are near employment peak but expect to cut back when heavy snows begin. Cement plant is on winter employment schedule. Farm hiring is at seasonal low.

**BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall**—(2,104 jobseekers, 491 new; 1,766 men, 338 women). Further layoffs in December at metal mines, along with trade and service releases, though the supply of jobseekers remained about even with November. Some migration noted. Outlook gloomy, with expected suspension of zinc and manganese operations a further discouragement. Theatres closed for third month by labor dispute. Some construction projects reaching completion, no new starts in evidence.

**CUT BANK**—(358 jobseekers, 76 new; 287 men, 71 women). All building operations are dormant, inside work hampered by lack of materials. Oil well drilling also at low ebb. Some prospect of work starting on sewage disposal plant shortly, but may be deferred until spring. Telephone crews have been reduced by introduction of automatic equipment. Farm hiring at minimum, very little stock feeding to date.

**DILLON**—(245 jobseekers, 73 new; 186 men, 59 women). December snow at higher levels started some livestock feeder demand. Building of power line halted, 20 men off

## LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	Dec. 1957	Nov. 1957	Dec. 1956	Dec. Avg. 1950-1956
Industrial Employment.....	161,400	165,400	165,200	156,000
New Job Applications.....	4,140	4,428	4,494	3,855
Job Applicants, End of Month.....	16,432	12,564	10,325	8,394
Insured Unemployment—	Jan. 3 1958	Dec. 6 1957	Jan. 4 1957	Avg. 1st Jan. Wk. 1950-1957
New and Renewal Claims.....	1,835	2,020	2,056	1,860
Unemployed Weeks Filed.....	11,856	8,462	6,426	5,773
Total Unemployment Claims.....	13,691	10,482	8,482	7,633

until spring. Mines nearly all closed for winter and ore mill undergoing repairs. Retail stores released extra help. Outlook good for iron concentration plant to be started here this spring. Talk is of \$8,000,000 job, 3,000 ton capacity, with substantial payroll to follow.

**GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim**—(494 jobseekers, 114 new; 398 men, 96 women). Construction crews at airport cut to 50, had 70 at work a year ago. New grade school construction begun with 8 men, will add 12 in January. Work continues on telephone building and funeral home. Present labor supply more than sufficient. Lay-off of trade extras begun.

**GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux**—(219 jobseekers, 86 new; 183 men, 36 women). Usual seasonal decline marked December labor market conditions, though construction was continued later than usual by reason of favorable weather. Will taper off in January. Retail stores starting to cut back from holiday staffing. Feeding of livestock scarcely begun.

**GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford**—(2,051 jobseekers, 483 new; 1,627 men, 424 women). Some call back of smelter workers in December, now only 15 percent below employment of year ago. Increase in the year of about 800 in idle labor supply. Construction prospect for 1958 not up to 1957 volume. No change in sight for the smelter operations held down by unfavorable markets. A surplus of experienced farm help, with minimum demand as open winter postpones livestock feeding.

**HAMILTON, Stevensville**—(506 jobseekers, 123 new; 434 men, 72 women). Increased labor supply comes from further layoffs in lumber and logging, mining, and construction, and completion of Christmas tree harvest. All occupations in surplus. More postal hiring, but less in stores and shops for the holiday season. Agriculture hiring for potato sorting and feeding of livestock.

**HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem**—(481 jobseekers, 159 new; 408 men, 73 women). Extra holiday help released late in December; outdoor work curtailed for the winter, including construction and railroad crews.

Winter outlook unfavorable, only two construction projects, with 30 men, operating. Farm demand dormant, stock feeding not yet necessary.

**HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs**—(711 jobseekers, 233 new; 611 men, 100 women). Labor supply double a year ago, construction and railroad demand at low ebb. Pre-holiday hiring in trade circles was lowest in years. Irrigation project only major construction item, no hiring at present. Demand may pick up in March. Street construction halted until spring. No new construction announced for starting this winter.

**KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish**—(2,086 jobseekers, 310 new; 1,761 men, 325 women). Labor demand is a third lower than year ago, supply correspondingly greater. Logging employment took sharp downward course in December, completing the seasonal downswing, most sawmills closed or curtailed. Slow hiring in trade for holidays, further force reductions there and in service industries expected. No material improvement until March or April.

**LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett**—(322 jobseekers, 83 new; 283 men, 49 women). Less extra help hired for holiday season, cutbacks may affect some permanent employees. Construction is at standstill, virtually all crews released. Work halted on the Missouri river bridge contract, idling about 25 in crew. No prospect of increased demand until March. Farm hiring is at minimum.

**LIVINGSTON, Big Timber**—(450 jobseekers, 101 new; 381 men, 69 women). With practically all outside work halted for winter, construction hiring is dormant. A few homes are in finishing process and the telephone building is about completed. Traffic department of that company will add 15 employees in January. Scattered layoffs in railroad work occurred in December. Extra gangs still working in the yards. A hundred men went back to the sawmill after a short layoff. Woods work is at full strength, with another logging outfit to start in January.

## EIGHT YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1950 .....	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951 .....	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952 .....	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953 .....	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954 .....	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	155.0
1955 .....	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.8	165.9	162.4	160.3	159.8
1956 .....	154.3	152.1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167.9	165.2	166.7
1957 .....	159.0	157.8	158.6	163.0	168.6	174.8	176.9	176.8	175.2	170.0	165.4	161.4	167.3



## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary, Jan. 1

(Continued from Page Two)

**MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Forsyth, Jordan, Terry**—(307 jobseekers, 129 new; 244 men, 63 women). Crews are still working on the state industrial school building and the fish hatchery, after small layoff in December. Severe weather would halt both projects. Hiring for retail trade holiday season was below normal, as were the after-holiday releases.

**MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior**—(1,327 jobseekers, 416 new; 1,031 men, 296 women). Weak lumber markets continue to hold down sawmill and logging employment into the new year. Several mills closed for the holiday weeks, others are operating on short weeks, and at least two shut down for a period to reduce inventories. Hiring for new pulp mill is nearly complete, operation plans not yet definite. Less residential building than in most recent years. Other construction activity at low ebb, improvement expected in March.

**POLSON**—(552 jobseekers, 81 new; 510 men, 42 women). Woods crews are laid off, sawmill shut down, and plywood operations dormant. Three road crews also laid off, with one new project to start in January. Some prospect of re-opening sawmill and plywood plant in January. Trade and service employment is being restricted by the sag in industrial activity.

**SHELBY, Chester, Conrad**—(331 jobseekers, 61 new; 275 men, 56 women). Outdoor construction nearly all shut down but some interior work continues. No new projects expected until spring. Work on hospital wing goes ahead, with reduced crews. Lull in oil field activity, intensified by projected closing of refinery at Oilmont. Stores hired sparingly for holidays, crews now reduced to minimum. Surplus of farm workers, with no demand.

**SIDNEY**—(167 jobseekers, 61 new; 132 men, 35 women). Sugar refinery will continue season run through January, using 250 to 270 employees. Power plant construction continues, with crew of about 200. Will finish next fall. Other construction jobs nearly all completed—lodge hall, grain elevator, store, and four residences. A furniture store closed last June, another will open in January. Farm labor demand at normal midwinter low.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—(441 jobseekers, 121 new; 383 men, 58 women). Labor supply is topheavy. Noxon dam contractors are now using 700 men, down 100 from November and 700 from midsummer. Rock fill job, some clearing, and pouring of concrete, are being pushed. Two sawmills closed in late December, may reopen in January or February; two logging camps closed. All specialty mills are closed for the winter. Reduction of force by 50 announced for a major sawmill.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey**—(317 jobseekers, 97 new; 279 men, 38 women). Normal seasonal decline in construction through December, and in retail trade after the holidays. Some building operations, and some highway work, in progress, but no new starts announced. Oil employment declining with departure of two exploring units and one drilling outfit. Crews went with the equipment.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Dec. 1957 (3)	Nov. 1957 (3)	Dec. 1956	Nov. '57 to Dec. '57	Dec. '56 to Dec. '57
<b>NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.....</b>	161,400	165,400	165,200	—4,000	—3,800
<b>Manufacturing.....</b>	19,700	21,100	21,100	—1,400	—1,400
Durable goods.....	12,500	13,100	13,400	— 600	— 900
Lumber and timber products.....	6,900	7,400	7,100	— 500	— 200
Primary metals.....	4,300	4,400	5,000	— 100	— 700
Other (4).....	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Nondurable goods.....	7,200	8,000	7,700	— 800	— 500
Food and kindred products.....	3,500	4,300	3,900	— 800	— 400
Printing and publishing.....	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining.....	1,100	1,100	1,200	00	— 100
Other (5).....	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
<b>Mining.....</b>	9,600	9,600	12,800	00	—3,200
Metal mining.....	5,800	5,900	9,000	— 100	—3,200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	1,000	1,000	900	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,800	2,700	2,900	100	— 100
<b>Contract Construction.....</b>	10,400	12,200	10,200	—1,800	200
Contractors, building construction.....	3,500	4,300	3,900	— 800	— 400
Contractors, other than building.....	2,800	3,300	2,500	— 500	300
Contractors, special trade.....	4,100	4,600	3,800	— 500	300
<b>Transportation and utilities.....</b>	20,800	21,400	21,100	— 600	— 300
Interstate railroads.....	11,100	11,600	11,500	— 500	— 400
Transportation except railroads.....	3,800	3,900	3,900	— 100	— 100
Utilities including communication.....	5,900	5,900	5,700	00	200
<b>Trade.....</b>	41,600	41,400	42,700	200	—1,100
Wholesale trade.....	9,200	9,700	9,500	— 500	— 300
Retail trade.....	32,400	31,700	33,200	700	— 800
General merchandise and apparel.....	6,700	5,800	7,600	900	— 900
Food stores.....	4,600	4,600	5,000	00	— 400
Eating and drinking establishments.....	7,900	8,200	7,500	— 300	400
Automotive and filling stations.....	6,600	6,600	6,200	00	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,600	6,500	6,900	100	— 300
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate.....</b>	5,900	5,900	5,700	00	200
<b>Services and miscellaneous.....</b>	21,400	21,600	20,600	— 200	800
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	2,600	2,900	2,500	— 300	100
Personal services.....	2,500	2,500	2,400	00	100
Other (6).....	16,300	16,200	15,700	100	600
<b>Government.....</b>	32,000	32,200	31,000	— 200	1,000
Federal.....	7,800	7,600	7,800	200	00
State and local.....	24,200	24,600	23,200	— 400	1,000
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County).....</b>	19,600	19,600	19,500	00	100
Manufacturing.....	2,700	2,700	3,100	00	— 400
Contract construction.....	1,400	1,500	1,300	— 100	100
Transportation and utilities.....	2,300	2,400	2,400	— 100	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	6,700	6,500	6,400	200	300
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	4,000	4,000	3,800	00	200
Government.....	2,500	2,500	2,500	00	00

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 677 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,000 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN DEC., 1957 AND DEC., 1956

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U. I. Claims	
	Dec. 1957		Dec. 1956		Dec. 1957		Dec. 1956		Dec. 1957				Dec. 1956				Wk. 1-3	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1958	1957
Anaconda.....	132	55	63	12	429	147	124	32	22	—	22	15	51	3	54	18	276	94
Billings.....	535	176	658	232	1,801	619	1,272	508	260	30	290	141	269	13	282	124	1,308	1,080
Bozeman.....	175	61	152	38	723	202	591	157	81	11	92	42	80	7	87	38	320	188
Butte.....	491	169	369	125	2,104	795	568	164	56	—	56	18	106	3	109	47	1,839	465
Cut Bank.....	76	34	87	42	358	163	238	110	10	2	12	8	26	6	32	21	274	158
Dillon.....	73	29	70	33	245	79	136	41	24	46	70	30	27	45	72	45	189	93
Glasgow.....	114	38	116	37	494	178	391	136	72	9	81	29	54	9	63	22	461	366
Glendive.....	86	34	139	47	219	72	197	63	45	20	65	36	43	5	48	16	123	112
Great Falls....	483	162	501	169	2,051	783	1,232	429	166	25	191	62	189	28	217	80	1,671	932
Hamilton.....	123	34	146	49	506	165	414	98	21	8	29	15	14	1	15	3	368	293
Havre.....	159	58	163	66	481	186	297	139	41	12	53	28	43	3	46	16	411	265
Helena.....	233	87	278	111	711	247	473	172	56	12	68	30	83	10	93	33	545	416
Kalispell.....	310	119	450	128	2,086	753	1,337	507	67	15	82	20	100	6	106	52	1,999	1,224
Lewistown.....	83	33	179	51	332	121	198	68	23	5	28	13	30	5	35	11	303	231
Livingston.....	101	29	76	32	450	168	282	100	27	1	28	7	14	1	15	2	388	321
Miles City.....	129	41	177	62	307	110	311	113	58	17	75	40	40	12	52	22	165	241
Missoula.....	416	136	372	143	1,327	493	922	358	104	6	110	59	107	16	123	59	1,254	735
Polson.....	81	31	108	49	552	209	416	166	4	6	10	3	13	—	13	2	563	436
Shelby.....	61	23	110	26	331	129	214	65	39	49	88	38	21	72	93	25	239	160
Sidney.....	61	22	104	40	167	49	186	63	22	3	25	8	33	4	37	10	134	148
Thomp. Falls..	121	39	71	25	441	160	271	93	18	—	18	6	13	—	13	4	570	259
Wolf Point....	97	37	105	38	317	128	255	117	12	7	19	5	17	5	22	9	291	265
TOTALS.....	4,140	1,447	4,494	1,555	16,432	5,956	10,325	3,699	1,228	284	1,512	653	1,373	254	1,627	659	13,691	8,482

\*Includes 435 claims of Federal Employees UC Program, 321 same a year ago.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. (1) 1957	Nov. (2) 1957	Dec. 1956	Dec. (1) 1957	Nov. (2) 1957	Dec. 1956	Dec. (1) 1957	Nov. (2) 1957	Dec. 1956
All Manufacturing.....	\$86.12	\$86.83	\$87.71	39.2	39.6	40.1	\$2.20	\$2.19	\$2.19
Durable goods.....	83.26	83.90	86.72	37.7	38.7	39.4	2.15	2.17	2.20
Primary metals.....	89.44	88.86	86.16	39.2	38.9	39.1	2.28	2.28	2.20
Nondurable goods.....	91.85	92.29	90.04	40.3	41.4	41.4	2.28	2.23	2.18
Food and kindred products.....	80.87	81.17	80.33	43.1	44.1	44.0	1.88	1.84	1.83
All Mining.....	97.52	97.19	93.47	39.0	38.8	38.3	2.50	2.50	2.44
Metal mining.....	90.64	90.64	89.69	38.4	38.4	37.5	2.36	2.36	2.39
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	90.61	94.15	86.91						
Transportation (except railroads).....	107.88	121.47	102.88						
Utilities and communication.....	82.33	80.94	78.97	41.0	40.3	40.2	2.01	2.01	1.96

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION OF MONTANAMITCHELL BUILDING  
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